

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Previously Presented) A water-soluble polymer composition obtained by continuous polymerization of at least one unsaturated monomer, wherein during said polymerization at least one parameter biasing the polymerization is varied according to a recurrent pattern.
2. (Previously Presented) The polymer composition according to claim 1, wherein the pattern is an oscillation about a mean value which can be selected at random.
3. (Previously Presented) The polymer composition according to claim 2, wherein the oscillation is harmonic or anharmonic.
4. (Previously Presented) The polymer composition according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the following parameters is subject to variation:
 - a concentration of at least one monomer,
 - an amount of a catalyst,
 - an amount of a molecular weight modifier,
 - a pH value of a monomer solution, or
 - a composition of said monomer solution.
5. (Previously Presented) The polymer composition according to claim 1, wherein the polymerization is effected on a moving support.

6. (Previously Presented) The polymer composition according to claim 1, wherein the composition is a co-polymer or terpolymer composition.

7. (Previously Presented) The polymer composition according to claim 1, wherein the composition is a non-ionogenic, anionic or cationic polymer composition.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Previously Presented) A process for the continuous production of a water-soluble polymer composition, said process comprising
polymerizing at least one unsaturated monomer, wherein at least one parameter biasing said polymerization is varied according to a recurrent pattern.

10. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 9, wherein the pattern is an oscillation about a mean value which can be selected at random.

11. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 10, wherein the oscillation is harmonic or anharmonic.

12. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 9, wherein at least one of the following parameters is subject to variation:

- a concentration of at least one monomer,
- an amount of a catalyst,
- an amount of a molecular weight modifier,
- a pH value of a monomer solution, or

- a composition of said at least one monomer.

13. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 9, wherein the polymerization is effected on a moving support.

14. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 9, wherein the polymer composition is powdered subsequent to polymerization.

15. (Previously Presented) The polymer composition claimed in claim 1, wherein the composition is in a powdered form.

16. (Previously Presented) The polymer composition claimed in claim 3, wherein the oscillation is undamped.

17. (Previously Presented) The process as claimed in claim 11, wherein the oscillation is undamped.

18. (Withdrawn) A process for treating a suspension comprising adding the polymer composition claimed in claim 1 to said suspension, wherein said polymer composition flocculates or dewateres said suspension.

19. (Previously Presented) A water-soluble polymer composition, obtained by continuous polymerization of at least one unsaturated monomer; wherein during said polymerization at least one parameter biasing the polymerization is varied according to a recurrent pattern;

wherein said recurrent pattern is an oscillation about a mean value which can be selected at random;

wherein at least one of the following parameters is subject to variation:

- a concentration of at least one monomer,
- an amount of a catalyst,
- an amount of a molecular weight modifier,
- a pH value of a monomer solution, or
- a composition of said monomer solution.

20. (Previously Presented) The polymer composition according to claim 1, wherein the parameter biasing the polymerization is varied at regular recurring time intervals.

INTERVIEW SUMMARY

Applicants wish to thank Examiner Pezzuto for the helpful and courteous discussion with Applicants' Representative on October 7, 2004. During this discussion it was noted that, as discussed at page 8 and 9 of the specification, EP 0296 331 B1 describes a process which is different from the claimed process. Further, EP 0 630 909 A1 or Patel et al (US 6,103,839) fail to disclose or suggest polymerization during which at least one parameter biasing the polymerization is varied according to **a recurrent pattern**, and a polymer composition obtained by this process.

The Examiner indicated that she may at least favorably consider Claims 10 and 19 which claim an oscillation as an embodiment of a recurrent pattern.